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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/692,661	10/24/2003	Wiltold Paw	49022/59150 US	9926
21874	7590	02/21/2006		EXAMINER
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP				VINH, LAN
P.O. BOX 55874				
BOSTON, MA 02205			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1765	

DATE MAILED: 02/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/692,661	PAW ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Lan Vinh	1765	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 10 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3,5-9 and 11-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment/Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see page 5 of the response, filed 2/6/206, which argue that claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance because it includes previously allowable subject matter of claim 4 is persuasive. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection of claim 1 is made in view of newly cited reference of Sun (US 6,641,630). The argument that claim 10 is believed to be in condition for allowance because it has been rewritten as an independent claim is persuasive. Claim 10 is allowed. The finality of the previous final action is withdrawn.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 2-3 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. The limitations of "the additive is potassium iodate" and "the additive is sodium iodate ", as recited in claims 2-3, are included in the limitation of "the additive is a mixture of potassium iodate and sodium iodate" in previous claim 1

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 2-3, 5, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ilardi et al (US 5,466,389) in view of Sun (US 6,641,630)

Ilardi discloses a method for cleaning microelectronic substrate. The method comprises the steps of:

supplying a substrate fabricated substantially of silicon (col 5, lines 48-50)
exposing the substrate to an alkaline cleaner solution (col 3, lines 56-60), which reads on exposing the substrate to an etching bath containing a caustic etching solution
the cleaner solution contains additives such as chlorite salt, an iodate salt (col 4, lines 21-28)

Unlike the instant claimed inventions as per claims 1-3, Ilardi fails to disclose using additive such as a mixture of potassium iodate and sodium iodate in the caustic cleaner solution

Sun discloses an alkaline CMP solution contains additive such as a mixture of potassium iodate and sodium iodate (col 6, lines 8-10, col 7, lines 35-38)

Since Ilardi discloses that the cleaner solution contains additives such as iodate salt, chlorite salt, one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to modify Ilardi method by adding a mixture of potassium iodate and sodium iodate in the caustic cleaner solution in view of Sun teaching because Sun discloses that iodates are suitable oxidizing agent for a polishing/cleaning composition (col 3, lines 5-16)

Regarding claim 5, llardi discloses that the alkaline cleaner comprises 0.1-10 % of addictive (col 13, lines 10-13), which reads on wherein the additive has an additive concentration of at least about 0.01% by weight.

Regarding claim 12, llardi discloses that any suitable alkaline may be used in the cleaner composition (col 2, lines 65-66)

5. Claims 6-8, 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over llardi et al (US 5,466,389) in view of Sun (US 6,641,630) and further in view of Maeno et al (US 5,714,407)

llardi as modified by Sun has been described above. Unlike the instant claimed inventions as per claims 6-8, llardi and Sun fail to disclose forming the additive by chemical reaction between iodic acid and hydroxide/I₂ with chlorate in the etching bath

Maeno also discloses forming the additive by chemical reaction of the iodic acid in the etching solution (col 5, lines 9-12)

One skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to modify llardi and Sun method by using iodic acid in the cleaner solution because Maeno discloses that the etching agent preferably contains iodine ions because the addition of iodine ions changes iodine generated by the etching into I₃⁻ which dissolves the agent, thereby preventing the precipitation of halogen or the like, thus it is possible to prevent etching defects (col 5, lines 15-19)

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Unlike the instant claimed inventions as per claims 13-14, llardi and Sun fail to disclose the step of replenishing the additive by adding more iodate salt as the iodate salt is depleted

Maeno also discloses the step of adding more haloxxoacid salt/iodate salt to the etching solution (col 6, lines 33-50)

Hence, one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to modify llardi and Sun cleaner solution by adding/replenish more iodate salt as the iodate salt/additive is depleted in view of Maeno teaching because Maeno discloses that it is preferable that the concentration of haloxxoacid salt is at least 0.04 mol/l to produce uniform etching (col 6, lines 54-56)

6. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over llardi et al (US 5,466,389) in view of Sun (US 6,641,630) and further in view of Morita et al (US 6,431,186)

llardi as modified by Sun has been described above. Unlike the instant claimed invention as per claim 9, llardi and Sun fail to disclose using additives such as sodium chlorite

Morita discloses a method for cleaning electronic component using a cleaning solution contains additive such as sodium chlorite (col 3, lines 15-17)

Since llardi cleaner solution is an alkaline solution, one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to modify llardi and Sun cleaner solution by using additive such as sodium chlorite as per Morita because according to

Morita, fluids contains oxidizing substance such as sodium chlorite supplemented with an alkaline solution can be used (col 3, lines 12-33)

7. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ilardi et al (US 5,466,389) in view of Sun (US 6,641,630) and further in view of Lack et al (US 2001/0044264 A1)

Ilardi as modified by Sun has been described above. Unlike the instant claimed invention as per claim 11, Ilardi and Sun fail to disclose using lithium iodate as an additive

Lack discloses a method for polish semiconductor substrate using a polishing composition/etching composition includes lithium iodate as an oxidizing agent/additive (col 2, paragraph 0039)

Since Ilardi discloses that the cleaner solution contains additive such as an oxidizing agent, one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to modify Ilardi and Sun cleaner solution by adding additives such as lithium iodate as per Lack because Lack discloses that an oxidizing agent that can be added to a polishing solution includes lithium iodate (col 2, paragraph 0039)

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claim 10 allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Regarding claim 10, the cited prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest a method for producing

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silicon wafers with improved surface feature comprises a step of exposing the portion of removed solution to the additive, in combination with the rest of the steps/limitations of claim 10

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lan Vinh whose telephone number is 571 272 1471.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nadine Norton can be reached on 571 272 1465. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



LV

February 17, 2006